

What is claimed is:

1. A home network, comprising:  
two or more host devices, where at least one host device includes a wireless  
module port, and where the host devices are connected in a local network; and  
a wireless module connected to the wireless module port of a host device, where  
the wireless module provides a wireless connection to an external network;  
where at least one host device is a consumer appliance.
2. The home network of claim 1, where a host device that is not connected to the  
wireless module is configured to send data to the host device that is connected to  
the wireless module to be sent to the external network.
3. The home network of claim 1, where the host device that is connected to the  
wireless module is configured to send data from the external network to a host  
device that is not connected to the wireless module.
4. The home network of claim 1, where the external network is the Internet.
5. The home network of claim 1, where one host device is a television.
6. The home network of claim 1, where one host device is an audio system.
7. The home network of claim 1, where one host device is a refrigerator.
8. The home network of claim 1, where the wireless module and the wireless module  
port are compatible with a PCMCIA interface.
9. The home network of claim 1, where the wireless module and the wireless module  
port are compatible with a Memory Stick interface.

10. The home network of claim 1, where the wireless module and the wireless module port are compatible with a Bluetooth interface.

11. The home network of claim 1, where a host device connected to a wireless module is a home network portal and the home network portal comprises:  
a wireless module port for communicating with the wireless module;  
a home network portal control connected to the wireless module port;  
a home network interface connected to the home network portal control and to at least one host device through the local network; and  
a host device functionality block connected to the home network interface.

12. The home network of claim 1, where the wireless module comprises:  
an antenna;  
a duplexer connected to the antenna;  
a transmitter connected to the duplexer for providing signals to the antenna;  
a receiver connected to the duplexer for receiving signals from the antenna;  
a baseband signal processor connected to the transmitter and to the receiver;  
a microprocessor connected to the baseband signal processor for controlling the wireless module;  
a memory connected to the microprocessor; and  
an input/output interface connected to the microprocessor for communicating with a host device.

13. The home network of claim 1, where the local network is a wireless network.

14. The home network of claim 1, where the local network is an Ethernet network.

15. The home network of claim 1, where the local network is an IEEE 1394 network.

16. A method of registering a home network portal, comprising:  
 evaluating a status of a wireless module port in a first host device in a home  
 network including multiple host devices;  
 if the wireless module port status indicates a wireless module is not connected,  
 5 evaluating the status of the wireless module port again; and  
 if the wireless module port status indicates a wireless module is connected,  
 broadcasting to other host devices in the home network that the first host device is a  
 home network portal having a connected wireless module.

10 17. The method of claim 16, where at least one host device is a consumer appliance.

18. A method of sending data from a home network through a home network portal,  
 comprising:  
 determining which host device in a home network including multiple host devices  
 15 is a home network portal having a connected wireless module;  
 sending data to the home network portal;  
 sending data from the home network portal through the wireless module to an  
 external network;  
 where at least one host device is a consumer appliance.

20 19. A method of receiving data in a home network through a home network portal,  
 comprising:  
 receiving data from an external network at a home network portal, where the  
 home network portal has a connected wireless module and is a host device in a home  
 25 network including multiple host devices;  
 determining which host device in the home network is a destination host device  
 for the data; and  
 sending data from the home network portal to the destination host device;  
 where at least one host device is a consumer appliance.

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20. A system for registering a home network portal, comprising:
- means for evaluating a status of a wireless module port in a first host device in a home network including multiple host devices;
  - means for evaluating the status of the wireless module port again if the wireless
  - 5 module port status indicates a wireless module is not connected; and
  - means for broadcasting to other host devices in the home network that the first host device is a home network portal having a connected wireless module if the wireless module port status indicates a wireless module is connected.

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